control and supervision of High Courts. High Courts may consult the concerned State Government, if required. Recent amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure, provide that summons may be delivered to such courier services as are approved by the court.

Bombay High Court, as part of the Pilot Project of Computerisation and Networking of city courts in Mumbai, which is funded by the Department of Justice, Government of India, is contemplating to enlist the participation of private vendors in certain ancillary functions connected with courts. These functions are :

- Providing certified copies
- Issue of services & processes
- Making court related information available to litigant public and lawyers on video display units and intemet/e-kiosks/interactive voice response system (I.V.R.S.).
- Processing of plaints, petitions etc. being field in the court.

The vendors will install their own hardware, software and other equipment. They will be responsible for maintenance of their equipment, and will be paid by the court on the basis of the actual volume of work done or services performed. Participation of private vendors is expected to bring about speed and efficiency in the delivery of services & ensure proper maintance of equipment.

Campaign for photo identity cards

1905. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched vigorous campaign to issue photo identity cards to alleligible voters in the country; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Election commission has informed that the programme of Electors' Photo-Identity Cards (EPICs) is being continuously monitored and reviewed in all the States. It has emphasized its endeavour to progressively use Identity Cards in future elections.

Towards this end, it has instructed the Chief Electoral Officers to start necessary campaign in the States.The commission has further informed that it has given highest priority to increase the coverage of electors with EPICs in the States where elections are due in the near future. A statement showing the progress made in this regard, updated as on 31.10.2002, is enclosed.

Statement

Status Report on Progress of Electors Photo Identity Cards

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Total Electors	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards	Percent (figures in 5 as % of 4)	EPIC report upto
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50,898,945	32,568,406	63.99	30.06.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	638,718	373,452	58.47	30.06.02
3.	Assam#	14,426,221	67,479	0.47	30.06.02
4.	Bihar	45,761,894	16,022,452	35.01	30.06.02
5.	Goa	925,555	613,859	66.32	30.06.02
6.	Gujarat	32,475,212	23,177,051	71.37	30.09.02
7.	Haryana	12,275,952	10,530,706	85.78	31.10.02
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3,978,494	2,213,650	55.64	30.09.02
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6,029,544	1,255,685	20.83	15.09.02
10.	Karnataka	37,231,412	33,388,007	89.68	31.10.02
11.	Kerala	22,359,631	18,344,689	82.04	30.06.02
12.	Madhya Pradesh	35,244,850	21,855,970	62.01	30.06.02
13.	Maharashtra	58,285,729	44,455,999	76.27	30.06.02
14.	Manipur	1,471,264	1.033,733	70.26	30.06.02
15.	Meghalaya	1,206,798	916.632	75.96	30.09.02
16.	Mizoram	481,919	**130.273		30.06.02
17.	Nagaland	1,006,549	625,996	62.19	30.06.02
18.	Orissa	24,925,892	18,700,031	75.02	14.06.02
19.	Punjab	15,817,105	11,963,814	75.64	31.08.02
20.	Rajasthan	33,979,199	23,804,513	70.06	29.10.02
21.	Sikkim	259,993	200,077	76.95	21.09.02
22.	Tamil Nadu	49,327,491	31,662,414	64.19	30.06.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	Tripura	1,880,746	1,401,208	74.50	31.07.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	99.685,000	63,855,651	64.06	30.06.02
25.	West Bengal	45,838,289	42,193,813	92.05	30.06.02
26.	A & N Islands	228,763	195,072	85.27	30.06.02
27.	Chandigarh	492,625	192,434	39.06	30.06.02
28.	Dadra & Nagar	118,415	87,922	74.25	30.09.02
29.	Daman & Diu	77,146	45,645	59.17	30.06.02
30.	NCT of Delhi	8,176,002	5,462,382	66.81	31.10.02
31.	Lakshadweep	36,847	31,813	86.34	30.06.02
32.	Pondicherry	670,347	513,673	76.63	07.07.02
33.	Chhattisgarh	12,737,703	5,398,879	42,39	05.03.02
34.	Jharkhand	14,768,848	5,659,384	38.32	30.06.02
35.	Uttaranchal	5,241,838	2.726,709	52.02	30.06.02
	All India Total	638,960,936	421,539,200	65.97	

** Number of electors photographed.

Issue of EPIC programme is currently not underway in Assam, although it has been extended to the State, as there are disputes regarding illegal immigration and citizenship.

Strength of Judges in Guwahati High Court

1906. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of LAW & JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength and existing strength of Judges in the Guwahati High Court;

(b) the number of Benches with strength of Judges on each Bench;

(c) the cases pending under Guwahati High Court and its Benches; and

(d) the steps taken for speedy disposal of the pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (d) The sanctioned strength of the Gawahati High Court is 17 permanent and 2 Additional Judges. Presently, 11 permanent Judges and 2 Additional Judges are in position.